

Community-Based Health Services

Mission

To provide effective, community-based health services that address the health needs and concerns of specific individuals and populations in all areas of need.

Summary of Activities

In striving to fulfill this mission, the **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)** administers a variety of programs that promote health care services in local communities. A goal of community-based health services models is to design and promote access to and utilization of quality health services in rural, urban, and other underserved areas and populations. The ISDH establishes programs that provide physician services, nurse practitioner services, health education, drug assistance, counseling, supportive services, case management, nutrition education, and immunization services, as well as comprehensive primary and preventive health care services for all age groups. Community-based health services are focused on primary rather than institutional or acute care. Much of this care is provided by nurses and physicians' assistants under the supervision and guidance of a physician.

ISDH's Community Health Center (CHC) program provides essential primary health care access and services to Indiana's uninsured, underinsured, and working poor residents. CHCs are often located in rural communities or other communities that lack access to primary health care services. This program grew significantly in 2000 when the Indiana General Assembly allocated tobacco settlement funding to the program. Today the CHC program helps provide primary health care services to over 320,000 Hoosiers with an estimated 1+ million medical encounters per year at over 60 centers located statewide. These CHCs are community-led and serve to build community by serving each area's unique needs. No one may be refused services at the CHCs.

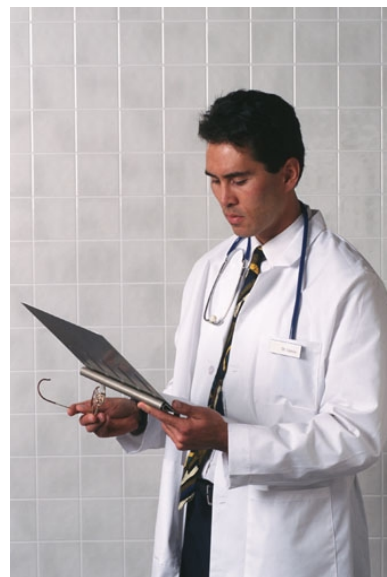
The ISDH works to eradicate or reduce the number of cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, influenza, and hepatitis, by purchasing at bulk discount costs and making the vaccines available to health care providers. The ISDH also conducts outbreak control activities when such diseases are reported or detected via ISDH surveillance efforts.

The **Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Agency (ITUPC)** partners with community-based organizations to change the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of young people, tobacco users, and nonusers. Effective community programs involve people in their homes, worksites, schools, places of worship, entertainment venues, civic organizations, and other public places.

External Factors

Community-based health services are closely linked to, and strongly influenced by, the local community in which the program services are provided. The long-term viability and sustainability of community health programs are impacted by communities' abilities to identify needs, locate and secure funding sources, participate in governance, and actively utilize programs and services facilitated by state agencies.

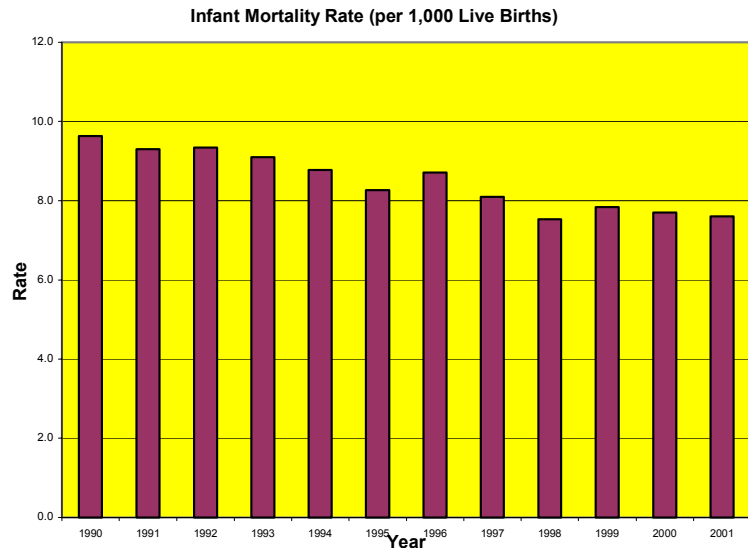
Collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies is a key component for successful and effective management of these programs. Many primary health care providers at the local level actively seek a variety of sources of funding as revenue to sustain operations. This may include federal sources, more than one state or local source, some local private foundation sources, and possibly the use of such funds to leverage donations or gifts from members of the community. State-local collaborative planning efforts allow health services to change and adapt as new threats and needs are identified.



Evaluation and Accomplishments

Access to primary health care services has improved through continuation of CHC sites throughout Indiana, as well as expanded services from other established agencies and clinics that address local health needs. Infant mortality has decreased, smoking rates have decreased for pregnant women, and health services have increased for the uninsured and special populations such as HIV/AIDS, minorities, immigrants, homeless, and others.

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome incidents in Indiana have decreased dramatically from 123 per 1,000 in 1992 to 26.2 per 1,000 in 2000.
- Live births to mothers who smoke have decreased from 25.4% in 1991 to 20.2% in 2000.



Each of Indiana's 92 counties has been awarded ITPC grant funds to provide tobacco use prevention and cessation services in their communities, including setting up resources to help smokers quit. Over 1,600 local organizations are involved statewide, including state, regional, and pilot programs, as well as 31 local minority organizations.

Plans for the Biennium

Community-based health services will continue to collaborate with communities throughout Indiana to assure appropriate health care access and to identify local needs and health concerns. Particular focus will be given to improving the health status of specific populations, such as the uninsured, the homeless, pregnant women, those with HIV/AIDS, the migrant population, and those with chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma, and congestive heart failure.

